

# UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

DATE April 1, 1982

SUBJECT Trip Report; Big River Lead Studies Workshop II

FROM Robert M. Fenemore  
Resource Analyst

*RMF*

*Big River Lead  
Studies Workshop II  
17.8  
Pine Ford Proj.  
4-1-82*

TO File (Pine Ford/Big River, Missouri)

Thursday, March 25, I attended the above workshop held at the University of Missouri - Columbia. Four other Regional Office staff also attended representing ENSV, WACM, CNSL, and MSAL. Missouri DNR/Clean Water Commission staff were also present.

This was the second of two workshops, the first held in December, 1981. This session was designed to follow-up on the preliminary study data presented at the December meeting. The proposed Pine Ford project on the Big River was the catalyst that created the considerable interest in the lead mine tailings/water quality problems in the Big River Basin.

The program consisted of 11 ~~speakers~~ <sup>speakers</sup> who gave brief summaries of their research work. Most of the presentations were pedestrian; not providing any new or interesting information about the lead and/or barite problems in the Basin. The lone exception to this was Mike Klosterman, COE-St. Louis, who ended his presentation on potential lead tailings mitigation efforts by announcing that the District Engineer, Colonel Dacey, intended to recommend the Pine Ford Dam and Reservoir project not be constructed. No specific reason was given for the Colonel's decision.

Apparently accompanying the recommendation to not construct the Pine Ford project will be a recommendation that the Corps ask Congress for authorization to spend the Pine Ford funds on controlling the tailings piles in the Basin.

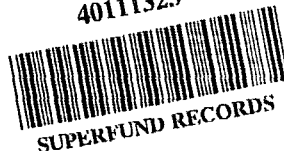
The Corps presentation on various remedial actions they studied to control the lead/barite tailings indicated much effort has been spent by them in studying the problem. Their plan to create new dams and dikes would control 100% of the particulates during normal flows and 90% during high flows. They estimated the costs to control the major lead and barite sites at \$75 million.

## General Comments

Some interesting issues surfaced with the Corps' announcement that the Pine Ford Project would not be recommended.

- Colonel Dacey's recommendation is only that - a recommendation to the Chicago Division Engineer. There may be enough political support in the Big River Basin to challenge that recommendation. Several State agencies are getting pressure to cost share on portions of the project.
- The recommendation may be contingent on the Corps getting Congressional authorization to control the tailings piles. The speaker was not clear on this issue.

40111323



- The announcement may have been just testing the audience's reaction. Two weeks earlier in an inter-agency meeting, the Corps indicated the project was at unity and gave no indication of the Colonel's decision. Two other Corps employees at the workshop claimed they did not know of the decision until it was announced.
- If Congress grants authority to the Corps to control the tailings, what role would EPA or the state have in the project? To date there has been little or no communication between agencies on this issue.